

This week we are learning about

An Angel Frees Peter

Acts 12:1-19

Knock! Knock! Open the door!



Knock Like Peter
Peter knocked on his friend Mary's door.

SPARK
REACTIVATE FAITH

Name _____

READ IT

This week's Bible story is
**An Angel
Frees Peter**
from Acts 12:1-19.

God sends and angel to release from Prison.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Herod
- Vision
- Prison
- Rhoda
- Angel
- Believers
- Guards
- Prayers
- Chains

Jesus' follower James was killed for his beliefs. There were many martyrs in the Bible. A martyr is someone who is put to death for those beliefs. Believe it or not, there are people who are killed for what they believe in many countries today.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 528-531

Spark Bible pages 1218-1219

Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to have faith in you and learn how you can do amazing things. Thank you for loving us even when we're doubtful! Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 Who was praying for Peter to be released from jail?
- 2 Have you ever prayed for someone who was in a scary situation like Peter was? What happened?
- 3 Why do we doubt that God will answer our prayers?
- 4 As a family, act out the story from Acts 12. Assign parts to each member of the family. If you have a big family, several people may be guards and believers who were praying for Peter. If you have a small family, assign more than one part to each person. Have fun!

Eye Spark

A necklace. A bracelet. A log chain. These are all chains. When you see any kind of chain this week, remember how the angel freed Peter from his chains and the prison!

Ear Spark

Listen closely to your family members this week. Just as Peter's friends prayed for him, say a prayer for each person in your family.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Make a list of cares and concerns of your family and friends. Each day (or night) this week, pray together as a family for the people on your prayer list. Your prayers may help someone who isn't sure that God is listening—it sure worked for Peter!

For younger kids

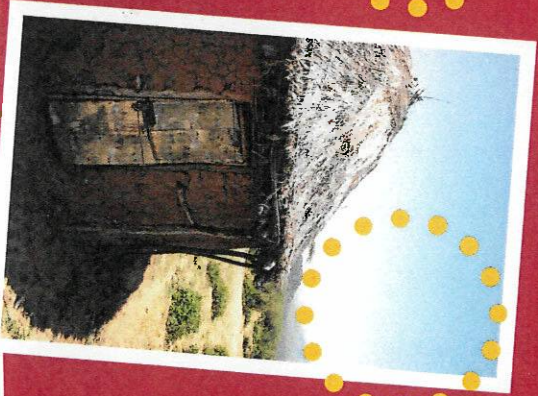
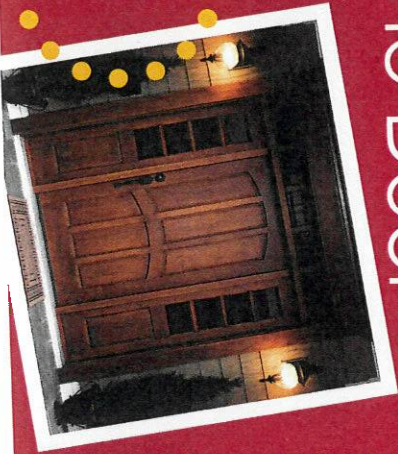
Write, decorate, and deliver a card to each person on your family's prayer list. Fill your card with encouraging messages that can help others trust in God to take care of their situation.

For older kids

Make a computer-generated card to encourage someone you know who is struggling with a problem. Insert a favorite scripture and decorate with clip art. Your card may be just the thing they need to strengthen their faith!

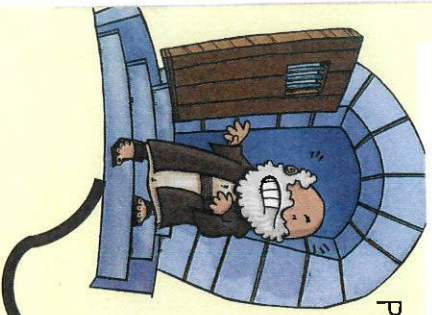
Open the Door

Doors open. Doors close.
Look at all the doors.



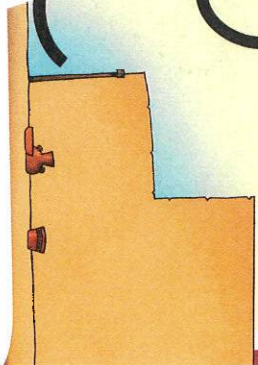
Let's GO to Mary's House

Peter walked from prison to Mary's house.



FAITH on the GO!

Act out today's story at home. Hide behind a chair or sofa, knock, and say "Open the door." See what your child does in response.



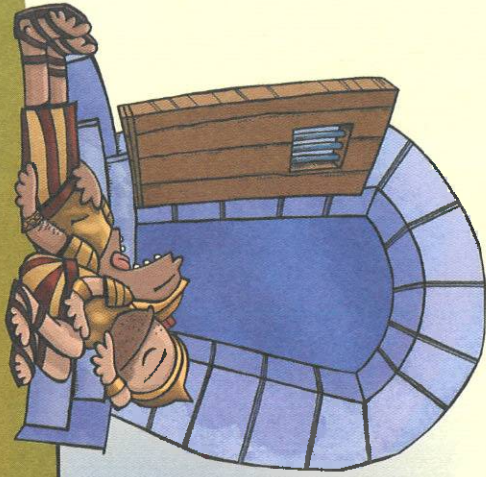
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An Angel Frees Peter

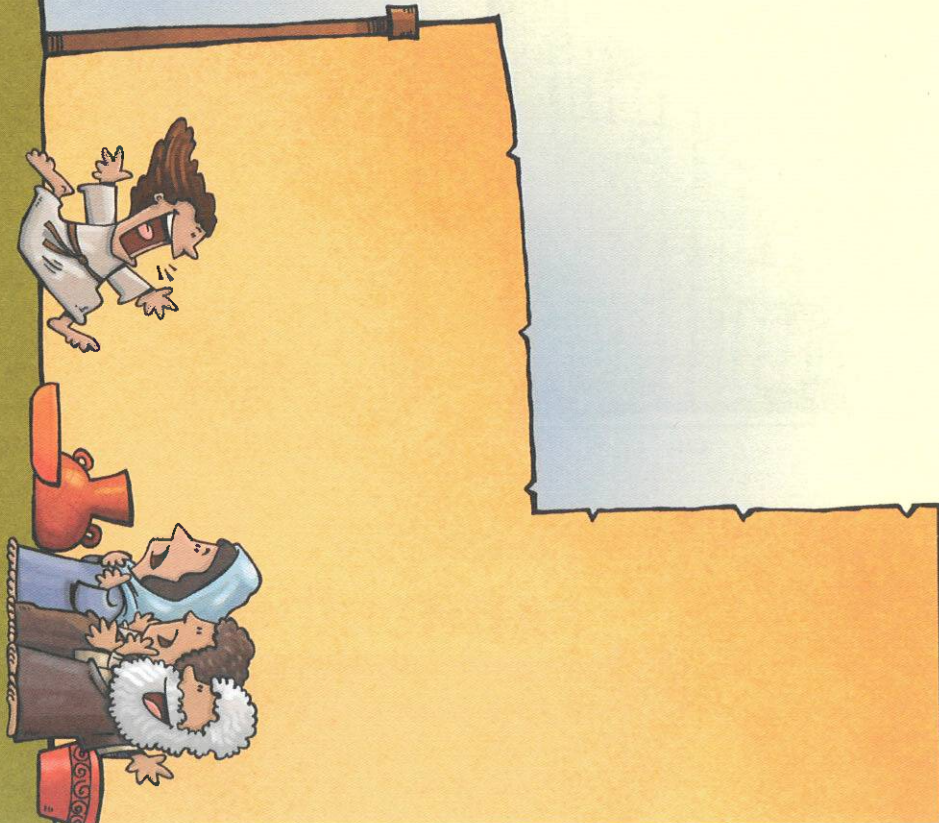
Acts 12:1-19
God hears us call.

Name _____

Draw an angel with Peter. Move Peter to tell the story.



X



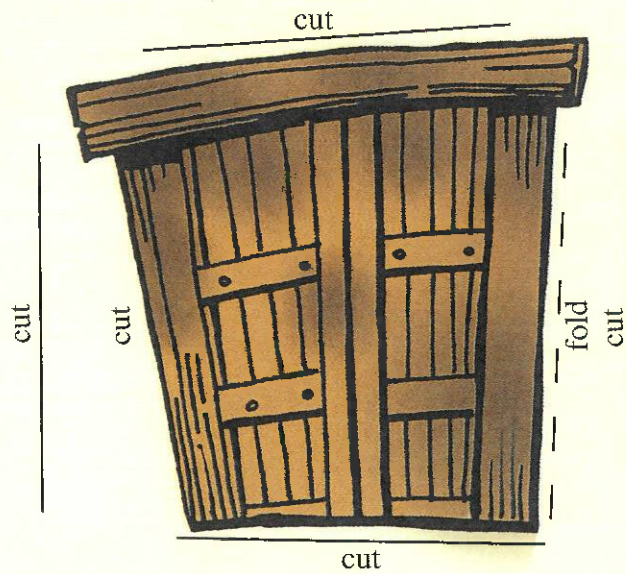
Where Can God Hear?

Pretend you are in these places. Where can God hear you?



Who Does God Hear?

Draw yourself in the space to the left. Cut off the strip and slide it through the door. Who does God hear?

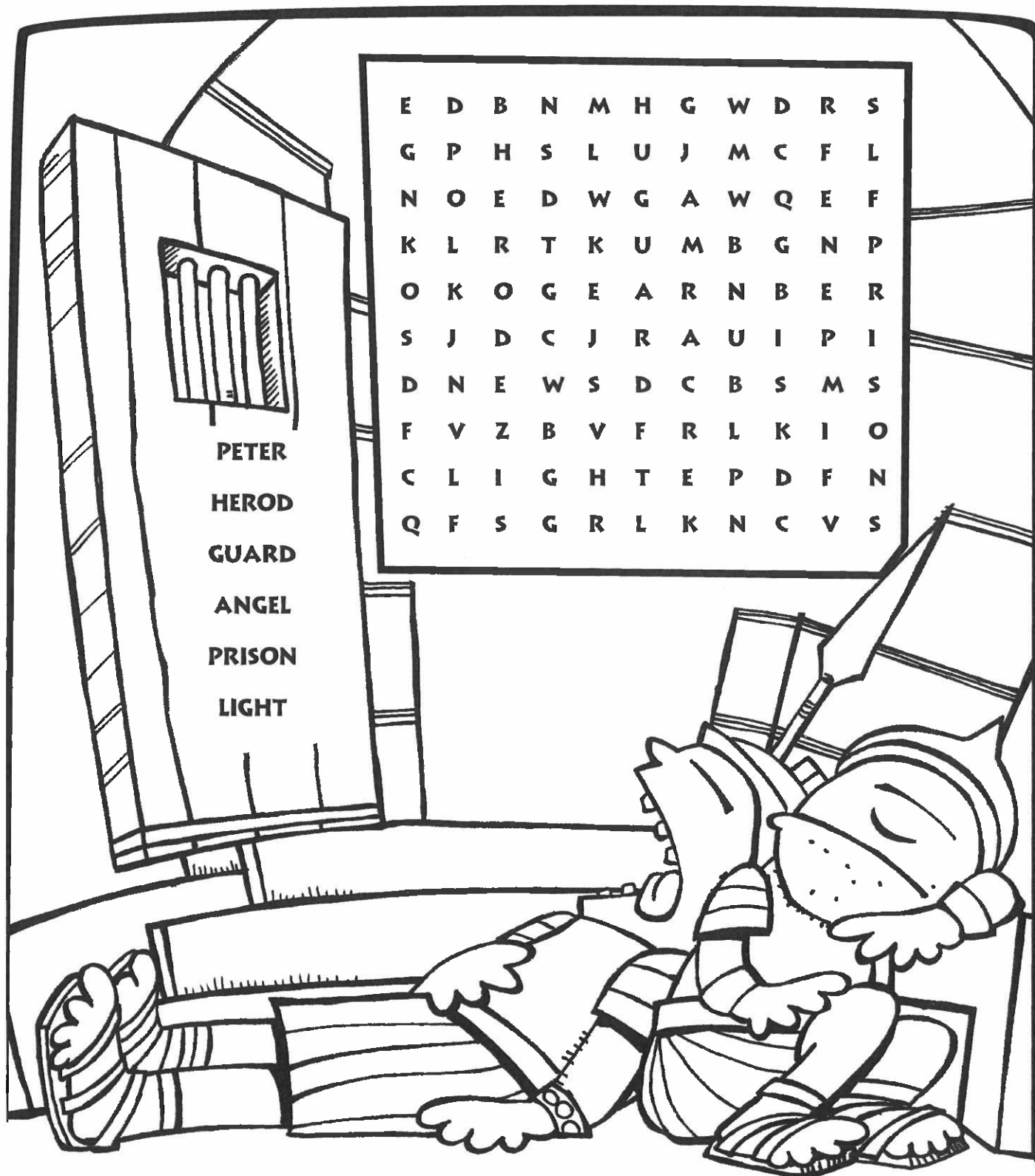


FAITHonthe**GO!**

Pray in three different places each day for one week. Be creative! God hears us anywhere we pray!

Find Peter

In today's story, an angel frees Peter from Herod's jail. Look for these words that come from the story.

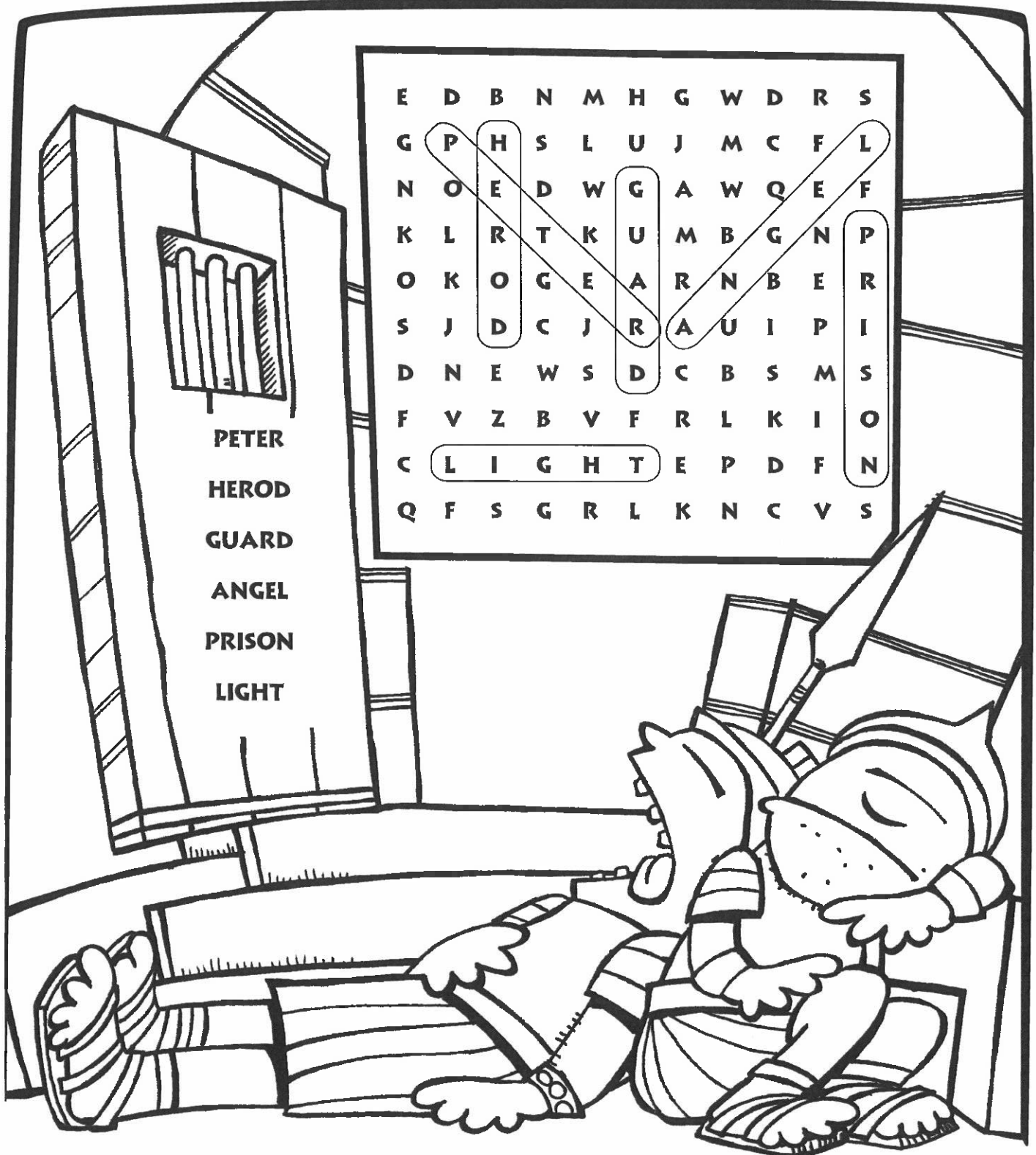


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G	P	H	S	L	U	J	M	C	F	L
N	O	E	D	W	G	A	W	Q	E	F
K	L	R	T	K	U	M	B	G	N	P
O	K	O	G	E	A	R	N	B	E	R
S	J	D	C	J	R	A	U	I	P	I
D	N	E	W	S	D	C	B	S	M	S
F	V	Z	B	V	F	R	L	K	I	O
C	L	I	G	H	T	E	P	D	F	N
Q	F	S	G	R	L	K	N	C	V	S

PETER
HEROD
GUARD
ANGEL
PRISON
LIGHT

Find Peter Solution

In today's story, an angel frees Peter from Herod's jail. Look for these words that come from the story.



An Angel Frees Peter



Acts 12:1-19

We can **trust** God to **save** us.

I wonder...

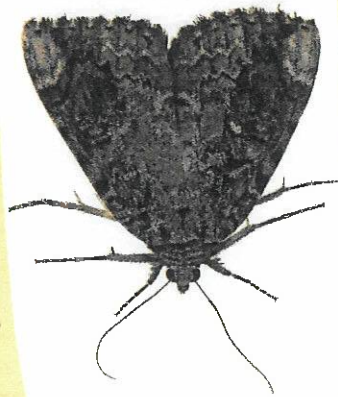
- Why Herod was so cruel to Jesus' followers.
- If I would be strong enough to face prison for my faith.
- What it feels like to be tapped by an angel.

It's "Hey-soos!"

Jesús ran home, his stomach in knots. He'd wanted to cry like his baby sister Lía. The mean kids at school had been relentless today. But who can blame them? Why did his parents have to give him that name? Why did his parents have to give him that name? It was popular where they grew up, but not here. And no one pronounces it right. "Hey-soos," not "Geez-sus." Why can't people remember that? It's the same name as Joshua, just a different language. But kids still think his name is weird. They tease him about wearing a cross. Lots of them go to church too, but they still call him a "Jesus-freak." He wishes he really was Jesus; he'd smite them all with his powers!

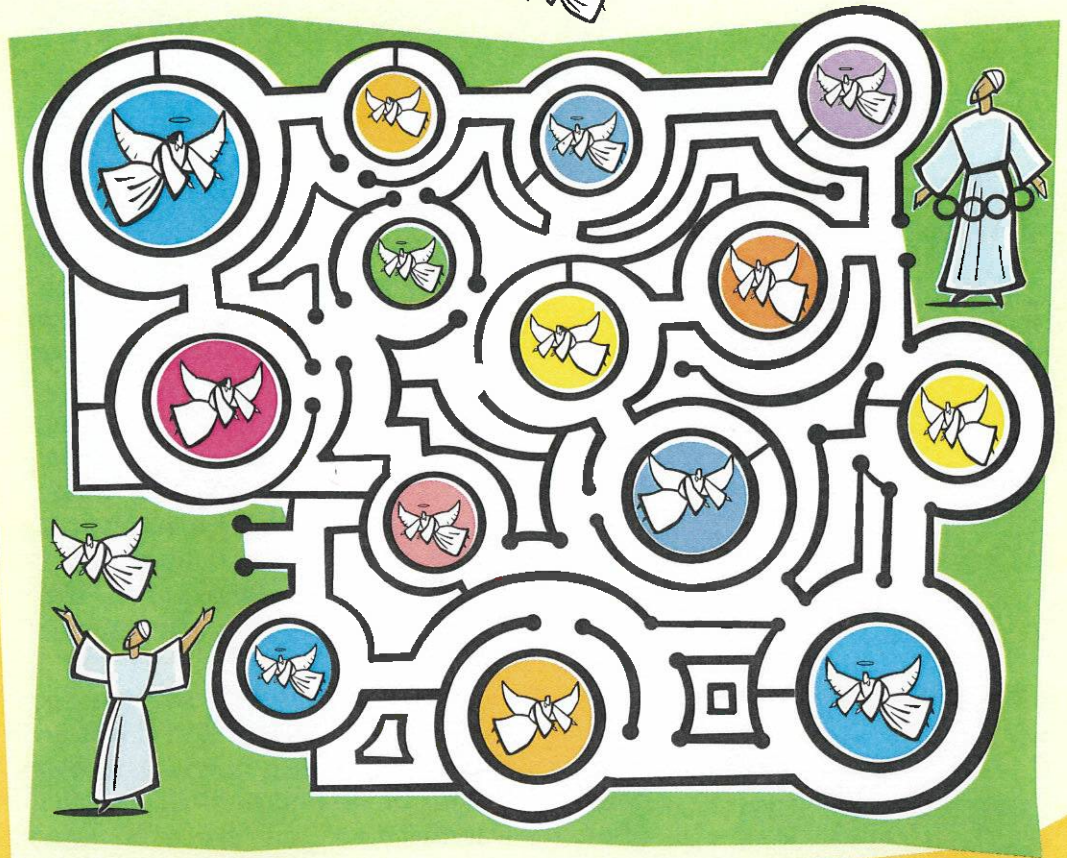
Jesús ran into his tree house and shut the door. He stayed until he'd calmed. By then, it was getting dark. His folks would be home soon. But when he tried to leave, the tree house door wouldn't open! The handle broke. Don't panic, he thought. But things started moving, flying at him and the little window. Moths! Everywhere! Jesús let out a holler and jumped, then fell forward, hitting his head against the door. It opened.

Jesús wondered what the kids would say if they could see him laying here now. He wasn't exactly the picture of faith sprawled out on the floor, but he laughed to himself knowing he would be okay.



Don't Forget Your Sandals!

Hurry up, Peter! Grab your belt and your sandals and get moving out of that prison. Help Peter find his way through. With your pencil, find his path by only following the angel that looks like this:



Look it Up!

Who else has God sprung from prison? Read Daniel's story in **Daniel 3:19-28**.



Memory Verse

While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

Acts 12:

Fun Facts

Peter started out a **fisherman** and ended up a leader of Jesus' church.

Jesus changed Peter's name from "**Simon.**"

Jesus called Peter "**Rock,**" and once yelled, "Get behind me, Satan" at him!

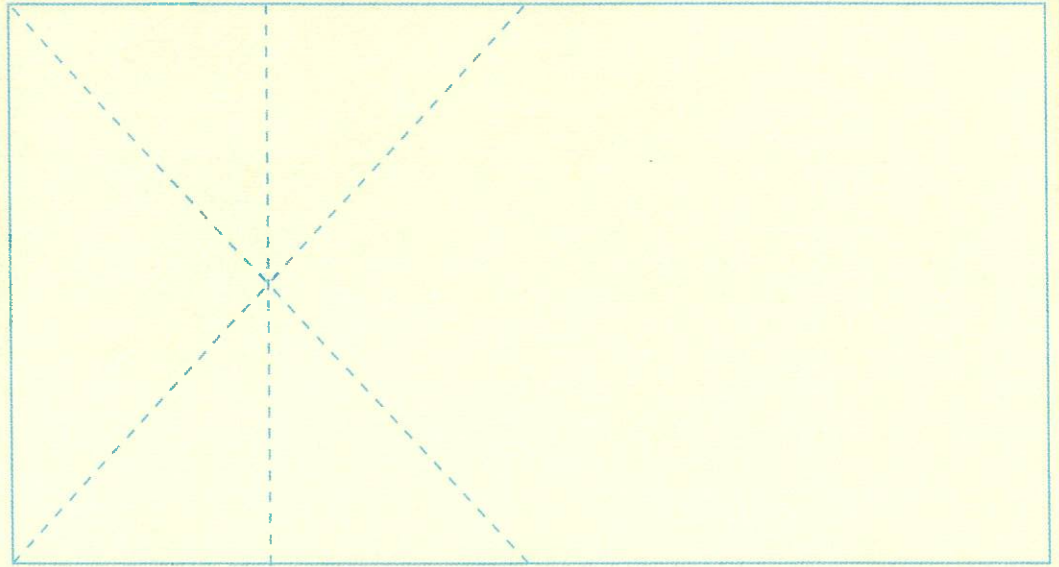
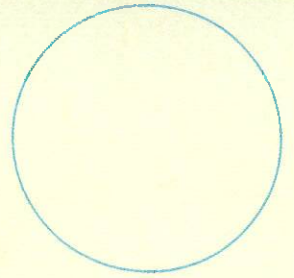
Peter tried to walk on water once and **sank** like a rock.

The accounts of Peter's life abruptly stop in the book of **Acts.**

In Rome in 1939, **bones** were found under a giant church by a sign that read "Peter is within." No one knows for sure if this was where Peter was buried.

This Is Not a Vision

Peter thought the angel God sent to save him was a vision, but he snapped out of it fast enough to escape! Create an angel from your leaflet and hang it somewhere to help you remember that sometimes being saved by God requires us to wake up and get moving!





Break free from TV! Turn it off for one week.

With a parent's help, go online to Amnesty International's student center Web site to **learn** about people unjustly imprisoned.

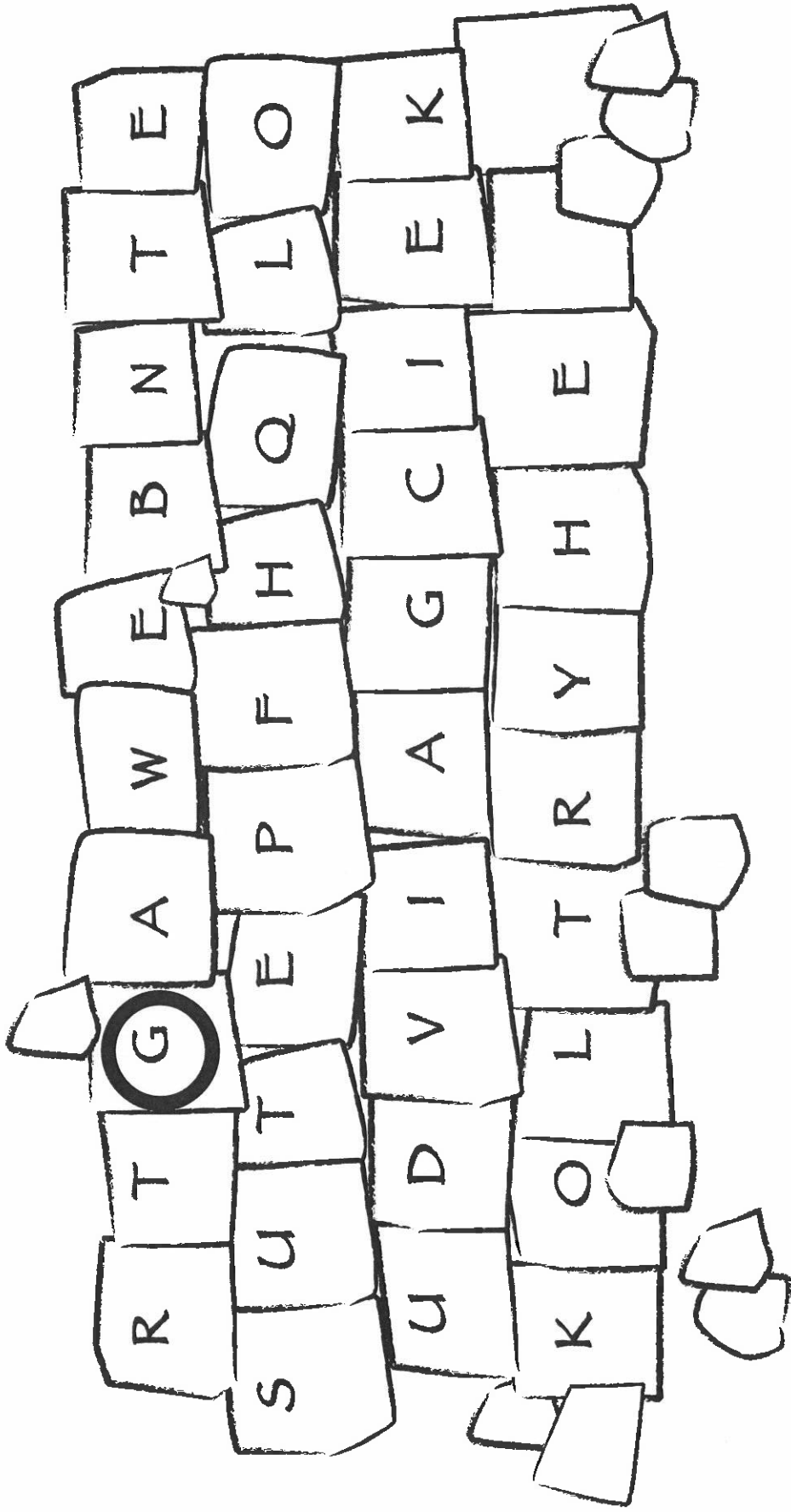
Be an angel for someone who needs help this week.

Write down, stick on the fridge, and **give thanks** for five things that amaze you.

Decide on a troubling situation meaningful to you and **pray fervently** for it.

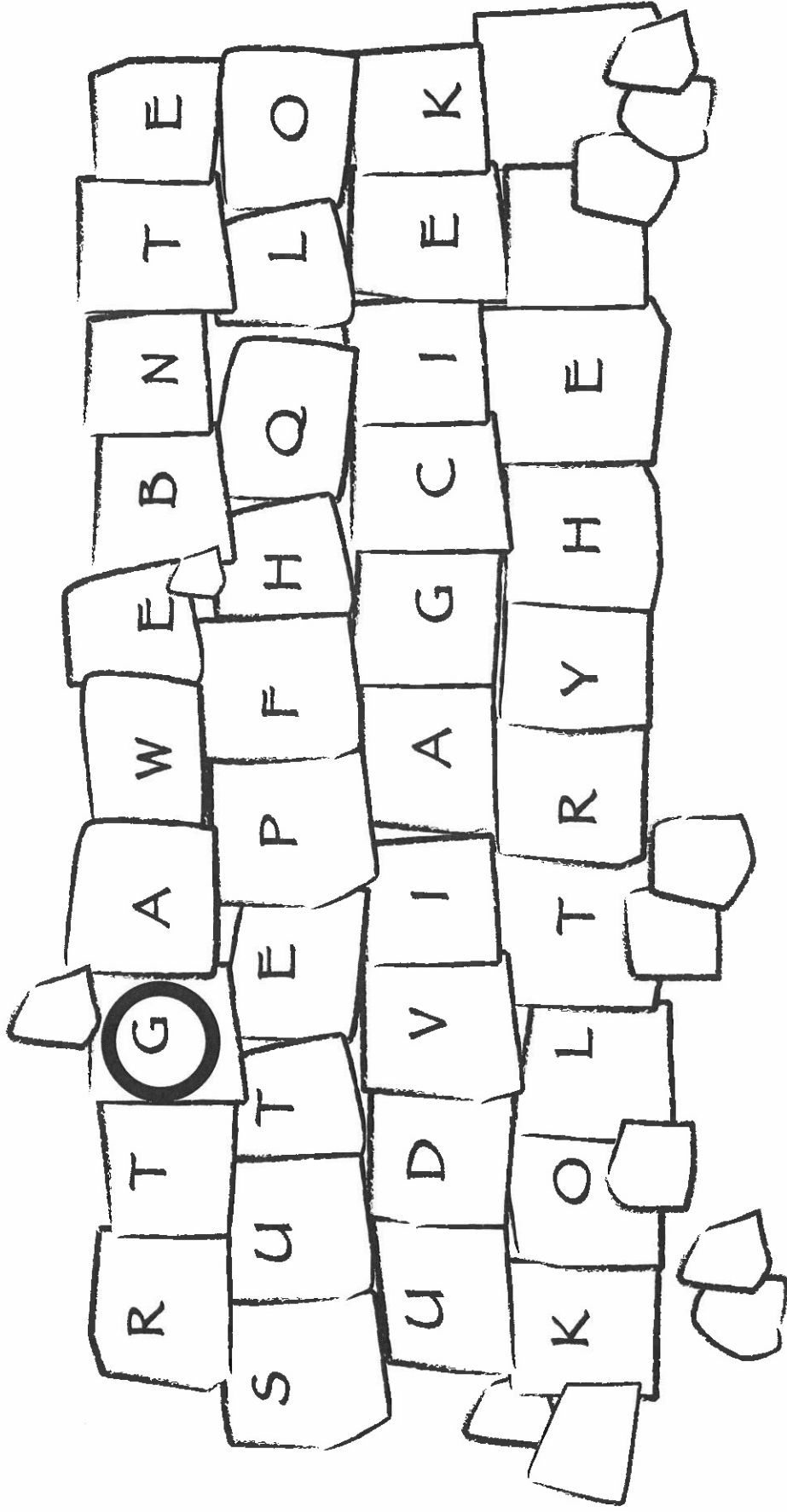
Wordy Escape

God's angel helped Peter get out of jail. Figure out the angel's message for Peter by circling every third brick in this wall, starting at the top left. The first brick is circled for you.



Wordy Escape Solution

God's angel helped Peter get out of jail. Figure out the angel's message for Peter by circling every third brick in this wall, starting at the top left. The first brick is circled for you.



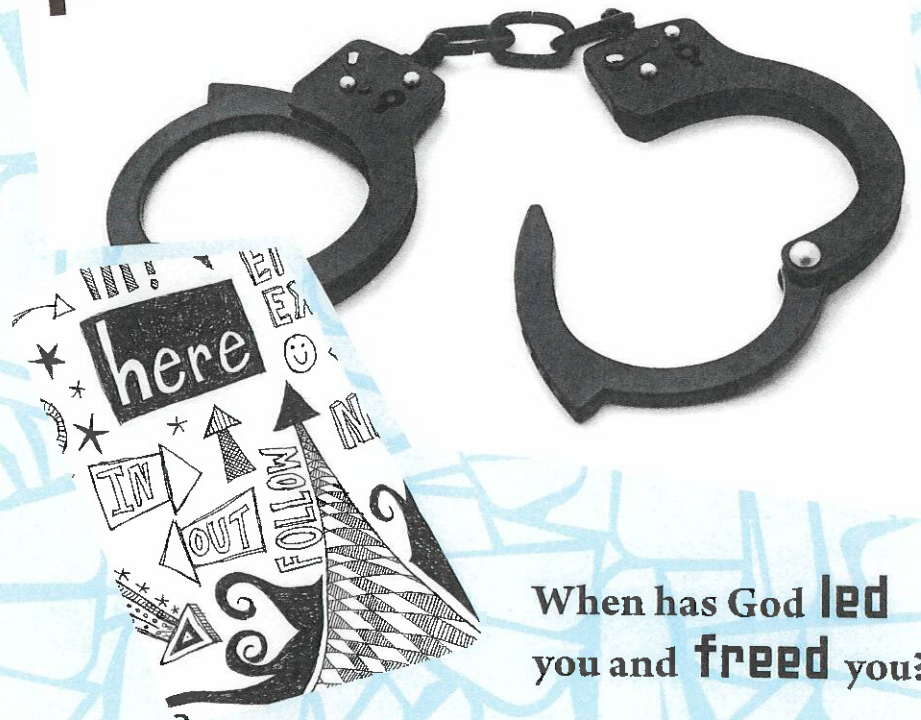
GET UP QUICKLY

An Angel Frees Peter

SPARK
wearesparkhouse.org

Acts 12:1-19

God **releases** us and
protects us.



When has God **led**
you and **freed** you?

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A Recipe for Release

Name the injustices, hurts and wrongs you see in your community and in the world. What can be done to address these forces and help people gain release from them? Put your thoughts here.

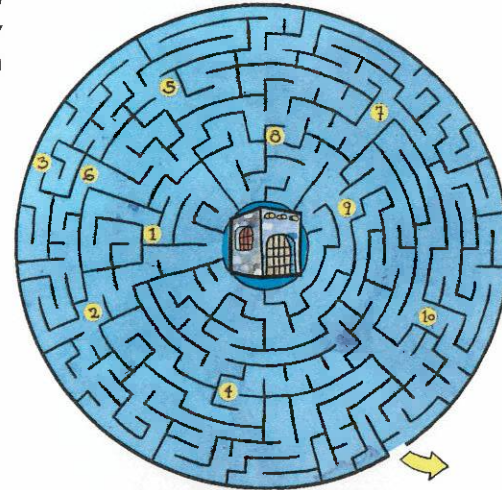
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Peter and the A-Maze-ing Angel

To defeat this maze and help Peter and the Angel break out of prison, you'll have to get past a number of checkpoints and unscramble the key words that correspond to each. But be careful: Some of the numbered checkpoints are traps or dead ends! When you come to a number, use the key below to find the code word from the Acts story.

- 1) RDGAU _____
- 2) LBET _____
- 3) RONI TAEG _____
- 4) INAHAC _____
- 5) HODRE _____
- 6) HODRA _____
- 7) EATHD _____
- 8) ERAACESA _____
- 9) LKOAC _____
- 10) DASSALN _____



Did You Know?

A Roman church houses what are believed to be Peter's prison chains! They are stored in a Roman basilica, San Pietro in Vincoli ("Saint Peter in Chains") that also contains a statue of Moses by Michelangelo. Legend has it that when the chains were held alongside another set of chains that imprisoned Peter at the end of his life, the two sets fused together. We know the chains date to at least the 5th century C.E.



Look it up!

Another great leader in the **New Testament** spent some time in prison, and wrote quite a few letters to early Christians from there. Who was it, and what was one of the letters he wrote while behind bars? Turn to **page 1296** in your Spark Bible to find out.

No Roman in Here

While the Bible talks about the imprisonment of Peter, it doesn't give a whole lot of descriptive detail. Here's what we know about Roman prisons in Peter's time.



- Mostly, people were put in Roman prisons either to die, or temporarily to await trial.
- They were far from pleasant places—the stench could be overwhelming because they lacked bathrooms and ventilation.
- Dead bodies were sometimes dumped straight into the Roman sewer system, which connected some prisons to the Tiber River.
- They were dark and cramped. The Roman prison that housed Paul still exists, off the Roman forum, and visitors crowd into the tiny space to see what prison life felt like for him. It is 6 1/2 feet (2 m) high, 30 feet (9 m) long and 22 feet (6.7 m) wide, and housed many prisoners some 12 feet (3.7 m) underground as they waited to die.

Prison is No Prize

No one wants to go to prison. In the case of Peter, he was jailed for his beliefs. He didn't do anything wrong. If you were in his position, name the things you'd miss the most and why.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____



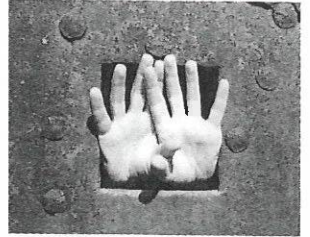
God Knows No Bars

For those who remain in prison, God's hope and promise of release still comes in many forms:

Former pro football player Bill Glass' **Champions for Life** ministry delivers the Gospel to incarcerated men, women and youth in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Dominican Republic.
www.billglass.org

Founded by former Nixon aide and Watergate conspirator Chuck Colson, **Prison Fellowship Ministries** centers its efforts on evangelizing to prisoners and organizing people to pray for them.
www.prisonfellowship.org

Amnesty International, a human rights organization, conducts letter-writing campaigns to free and bring comfort to political prisoners and those oppressed by governments worldwide.
www.amnesty.org



Faith on the Go!



Peter likely couldn't see much in his dark prison cell. But the angel who led him to release offered light of every kind—the chains fell off and he was free. Interview members of your family about times they have felt freed from something. The next time you feel trapped, or in the dark, go to God for help and guidance. Then, wait for the light, release and protection.

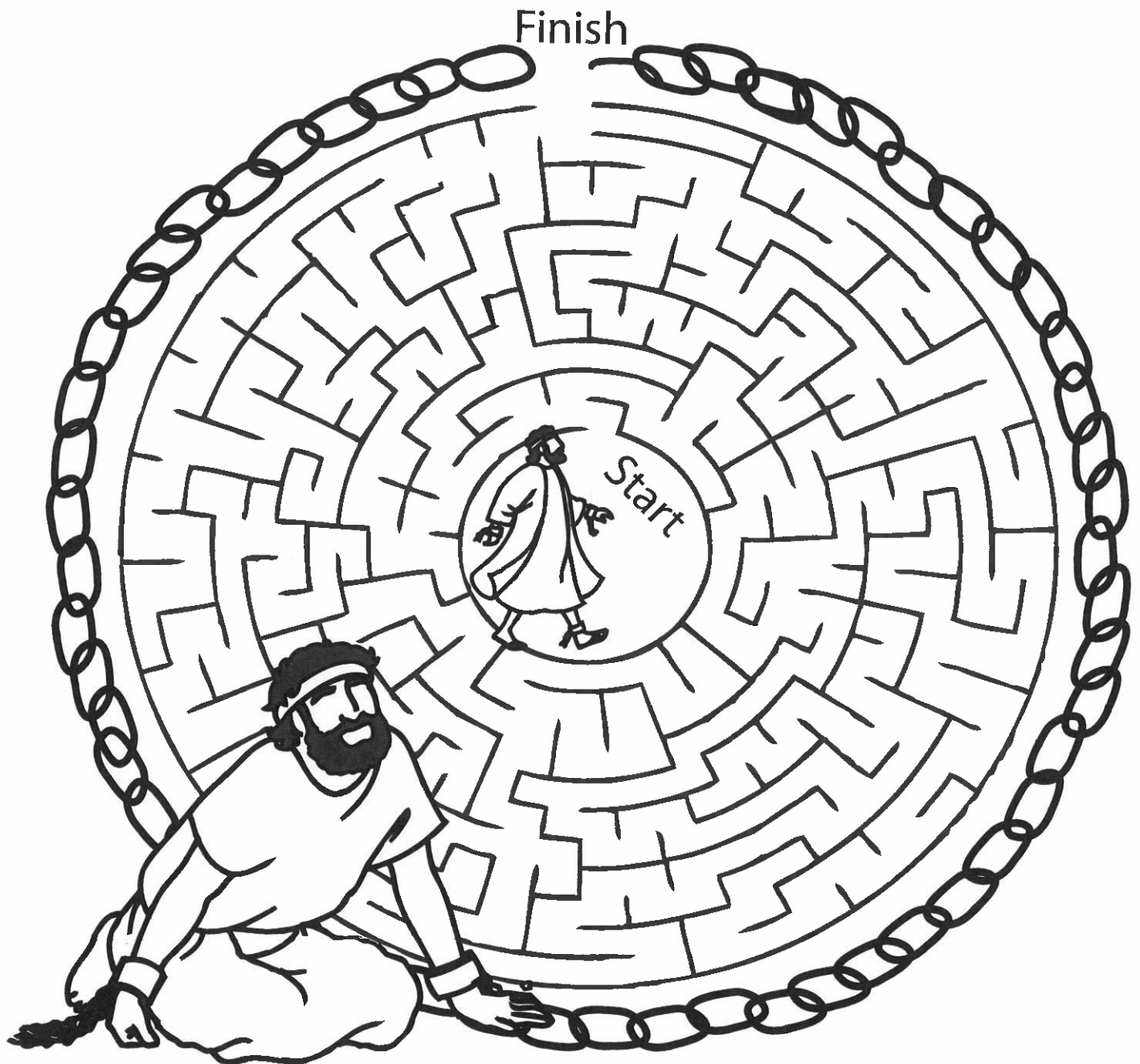
Memory Verse



Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. Acts 12:7

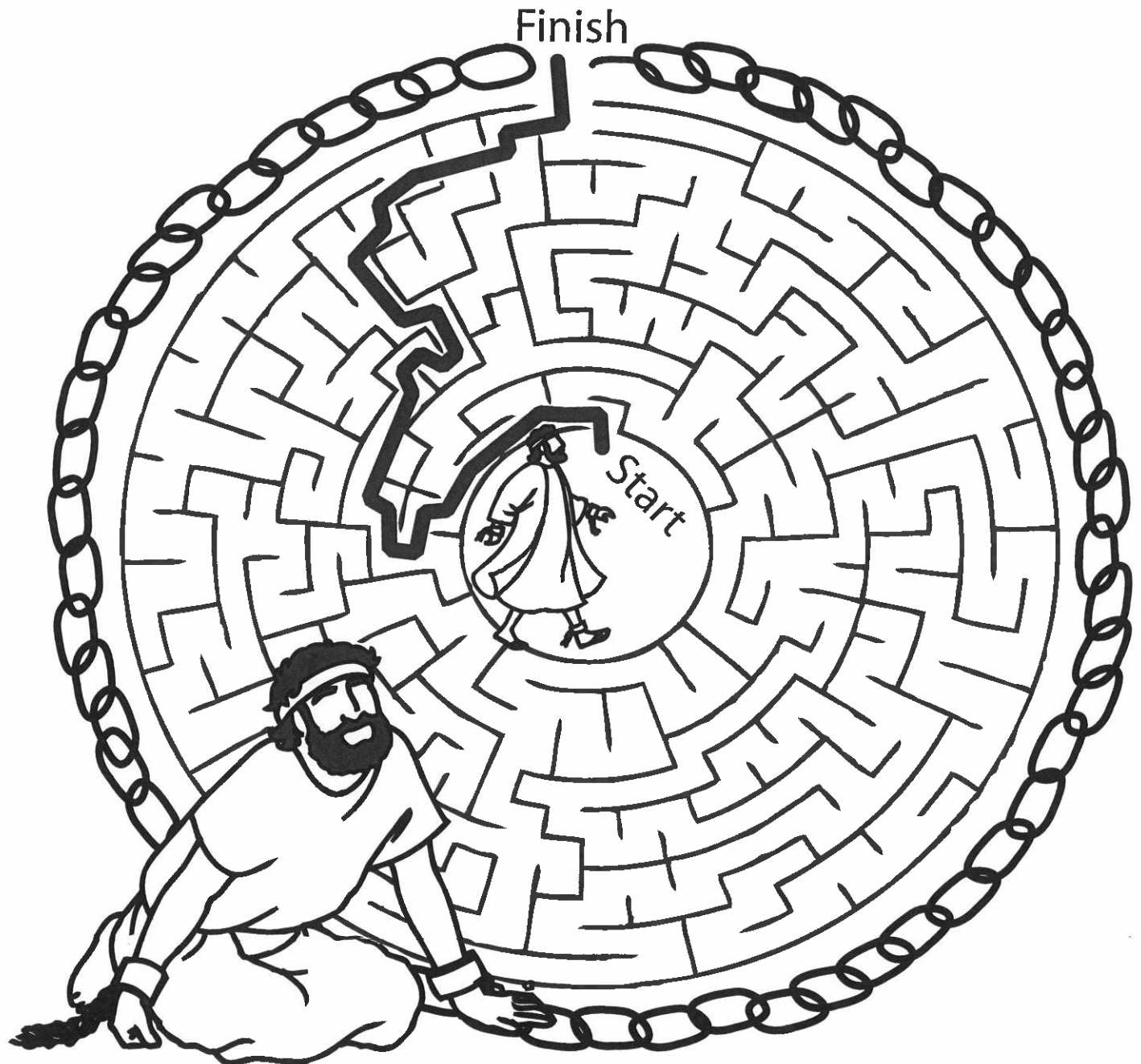
Free from Jail - Now What?

An angel has freed Peter from jail. Can you help him find his way out?



Free from Jail - Now What? Solution

An angel has freed Peter from jail. Can you help him find his way out?

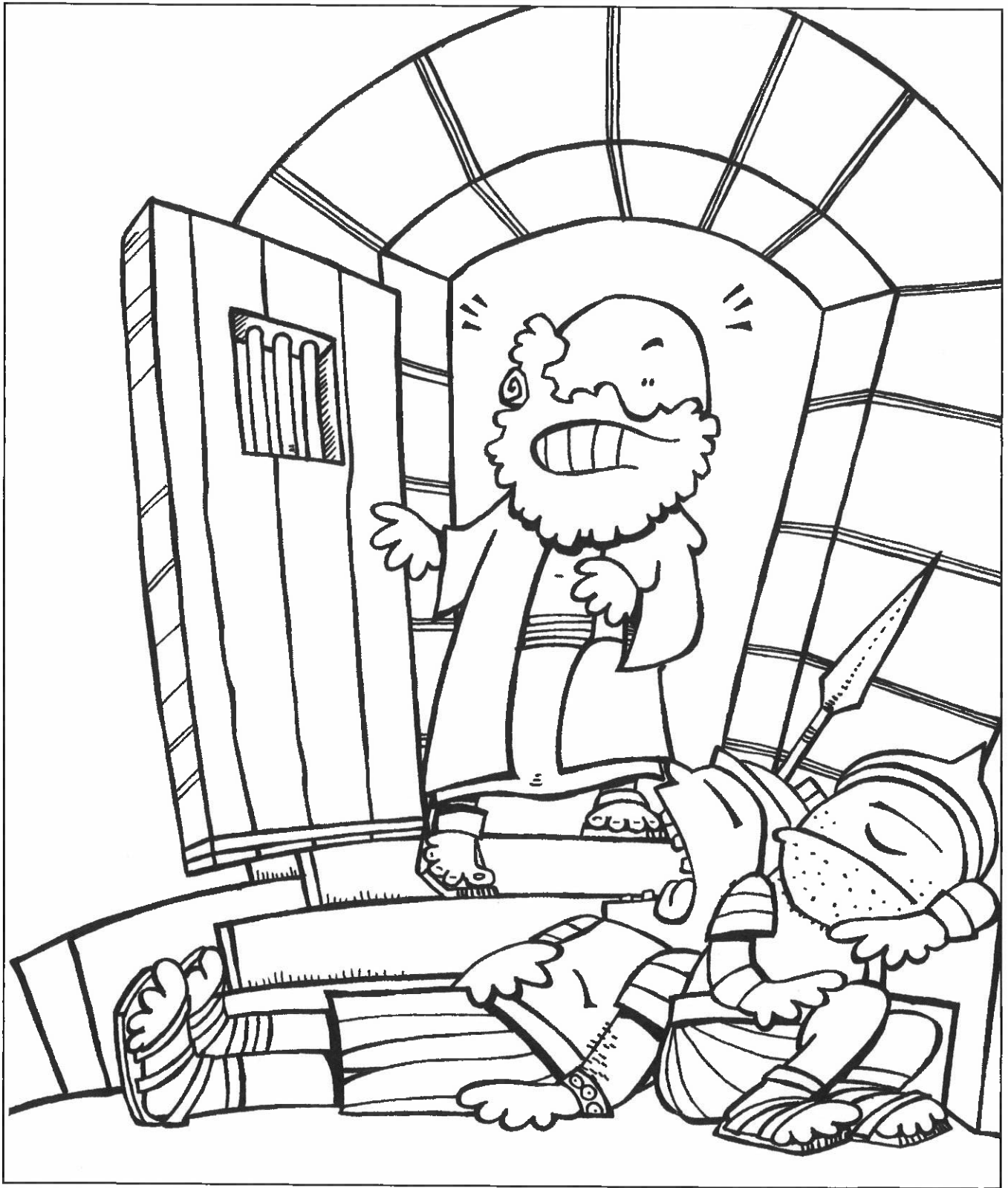


An Angel Frees Peter



“Peter is at the door!” she exclaimed.

An Angel Frees Peter



He followed the angel out of the prison, passing all the guards, who were fast asleep.